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Report from Ernest Sevelinck

Ernest Stevelinck

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which culminated with the anniversary edition at the fourth dinner meeting. The advisor decided to use the first three programs as preparatory to the fourth by dividing two of the textual parts, the chronology and the narrative, into 25 year segments. This decision made the textual components of the first three programs different and, hopefully, increased the readers' appetites for the celebration. Since ads were sold for the booklets, this approach had further merit. The writer decided to write the narrative on a goal-oriented basis. The 14 goals of the Rhode Island Society through the years were generalized as being: (1) legality, (2) education, (3) ethics, (4) relations with national and regional accounting groups, (5) social relations, (6) public relations, (7) administration, (8) relations with the credit and legal communities, (9) relations with educational institutions and their accounting students, (10) concern with smaller CPA practitioners, (11) member recognition, (12) public service, (13) lobbying for tax and other accounting matters, and (14) improved accounting practices. The major events listed from the analysis of the minutes books were catalogued into these 14 groupings and became the basis of the narrative.

Another segment of the anniversary edition was the writer's view of "The Rhode Island Society of CPAs in the Year 2005." The 14 point approach used in the narrative was also used here and did provide some continuity. This segment of the program is a good vehicle to prepare members of the Society for change.

The writer enjoyed the segment on "Outstanding Members" a great deal, as the Society has had a truly outstanding membership roll, including the first CPA governor, Christopher DelSesto, a Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Russel C. Harrington, and an administrative Vice President of the AICPA, John L. Carey. A total of 15 past and present members were chosen by the writer and the Anniversary Committee. There was not the time for the membership involvement in the selection process that the writer wanted. He recommends an approach of the membership nominating past and present members who are either deceased or over a certain age. Brief biographies of these 15 members were printed in the Anniversary Edition and the 11 living honorees were feted at the Anniversary Dinner.

The writer has hopefully helped convince fellow members of the Academy of Accounting Historians that a Society of CPAs history is possible for each

jurisdiction and that it should be attempted. The writer urges also an immediate project to collect archival items in each Society, to list them, and to store them in a safe place. Since 1987 will mark the centennial of the AICPA, the AICPA should consider a national project of collecting a history for each Society for display during the centennial celebration.



REPORT FROM ERNEST STEVELINCK

A letter has been received from Ernest Stevelinck of Belgium thanking the Academy for the magnificent plaque sent to honor him on his selection for life membership. Stevelinck's selection for life membership was based primarily on his near-life-long study of the iconography of Luca Pacioli (a subject upon which he spoke at the 1980 Third World Congress of Accounting Historians in London).

Stevelinck noted that he had corresponded with Tito Antoni, who is in charge of the Fourth World Congress which is to be held in Pisa in 1984. Antoni recently spent considerable time in South America and reports that the Venezuelians, Peruvians, Bolivians, Argentinians, and Brazilians all pledge their cooperation for the 1984 meeting. Also, the rumor is that the South American accounting historians plan to request that the Sixth World Congress be held in Caracas in 1992 to commemorate the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. The Fifth World Congress is tentatively scheduled for Sidney, Australia, in 1988 (to be held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the accounting profession in Australia).

The quadrennial World Congress meetings are the epitome of accounting history meetings. All members of the Academy should be planning now for their 1984 trip to Pisa. It would be a good opportunity for a tax deductible trip to Italy.

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